



Realizing dreams.

**UF&Shands**  
The University Of Florida Health System



## The Journey To Parenthood

The first "Gator Baby" was born in 1988 through the in vitro fertilization program at the University of Florida. Since that momentous day, UF Reproductive Medicine physicians have helped many couples realize the dream of becoming parents. Depending on the age of the patients involved, we have achieved a live birth rate as high as 60% per transfer and a live birth rate as high as 75% per transfer with donor eggs.

Today, the program offers all the most advanced fertility treatment options and assisted reproductive technologies available to help you achieve success. Most of all, we understand the challenges couples can face and provide our services in an intimate, compassionate setting where our team supports you every step of your journey.

Our medical staff is made up of UF physicians who specialize in obstetrics and gynecology, reproductive endocrinology and infertility and minimally invasive surgery. They work closely with a team that includes experts in our IVF laboratory, as well as psychologists and nurses who specialize in infertility. Together, we offer the services you need along with the respect and caring that make this, truly, a labor of love.

## Understanding Reproductive Issues In Men And Women

In couples, about 50% of infertility problems may be due to female factors, including aging; ovulation dysfunctions such as anovulation and other menstrual cycle abnormalities; and tubal, uterine and peritoneal factors such as endometriosis.

Male infertility accounts for about 30% of infertility in couples, and another 20% of couples may have a combination of both male and female factors. Because male infertility may sometimes be the result of serious health problems, our team collaborates with an on-site fellowship-trained urologist to ensure fast-track evaluation and management of the male partner.

In a large number of patients with infertility problems, no specific reason can be identified using current technology. Fortunately, the majority of these couples will eventually have a successful pregnancy with therapy alone.

## Advanced Diagnostics

The first step in helping couples achieve a successful pregnancy is determining the cause of their infertility problem. The UF Reproductive Medicine program offers sophisticated technology for understanding the causes of infertility so that we can tailor treatment to each couple's unique needs.

### *Hysterosalpingography*

This radiologic procedure is one of the basic infertility screening tests. By creating images of the uterine cavity, it allows physicians to determine if there are any anatomical defects of the uterus or tubes. In addition, research indicates that the procedure itself may enhance fertility during the first three months of the test.

### *Saline Infusion Sonography*

This quick test involves injecting saline solution into the uterine cavity during transvaginal ultrasound. It is an excellent way to evaluate the uterus and rule out the presence of polyps or fibroids, and it is always performed prior to embryo transfer.

Pictured opposite page: UF obstetrician and gynecologist R. Stan Williams, MD, Professor and Chair of Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology





### *Ovarian Reserve Assessment*

This test is designed to estimate the quantity of eggs in the ovaries as part of an overall plan to optimize fertility treatment outcomes.

### *Semen Analysis*

This is an essential part of an infertility assessment. The specimen should be collected in the office or be received by the laboratory within 30 minutes from the time of collection. It is examined under a microscope to determine the number of sperm present and their movement as well as any abnormalities in their shape. Because of normal fluctuations, more than one semen analysis may be necessary over the course of several weeks or months.

## Comprehensive Treatment

The specific services we provide to couples with infertility issues depend on the exact nature of their problem. We offer all the leading techniques and latest technologies.

### *Assisted Reproduction*

Any fertility treatment that involves removing eggs from a woman's ovaries and combining them with sperm in a laboratory is considered assisted reproduction.

### *In Vitro Fertilization And Embryo Transfer*

This is one of the most common and successful forms of assisted reproductive technology. The process includes the following steps:

1. Controlled ovarian hyperstimulation (COH) using fertility drugs to increase egg development and enhance the chance for pregnancy.
2. Egg retrieval, using vaginal ultrasound and aspiration to locate and remove the mature eggs.
3. Fertilization occurs in a Petri dish using the retrieved eggs and the husband's sperm. The dish is placed in an incubator and examined at intervals to determine fertilization and maturity.
4. Embryo transfer is performed when embryo development has reached the desired stage. This is done in a matter of minutes, using a catheter with no surgery or anesthesia required.

Pictured opposite page: UF obstetricians and gynecologists Orhan Bukulmez, MD, and Alice Rhoton-Vlasak, MD.

## *Fertility-Promoting Surgery*

Most fertility-promoting surgeries use minimally invasive techniques. Procedures include laparoscopy, hysteroscopy, tubal reversal and myomectomy to remove fibroids.

## *Intrauterine Insemination*

This approach, also known as artificial insemination, involves processing a semen sample in the laboratory, then inserting it in the uterus using a catheter. Either husband's sperm or donor sperm may be used depending on the situation.

## *Ovulation Induction*

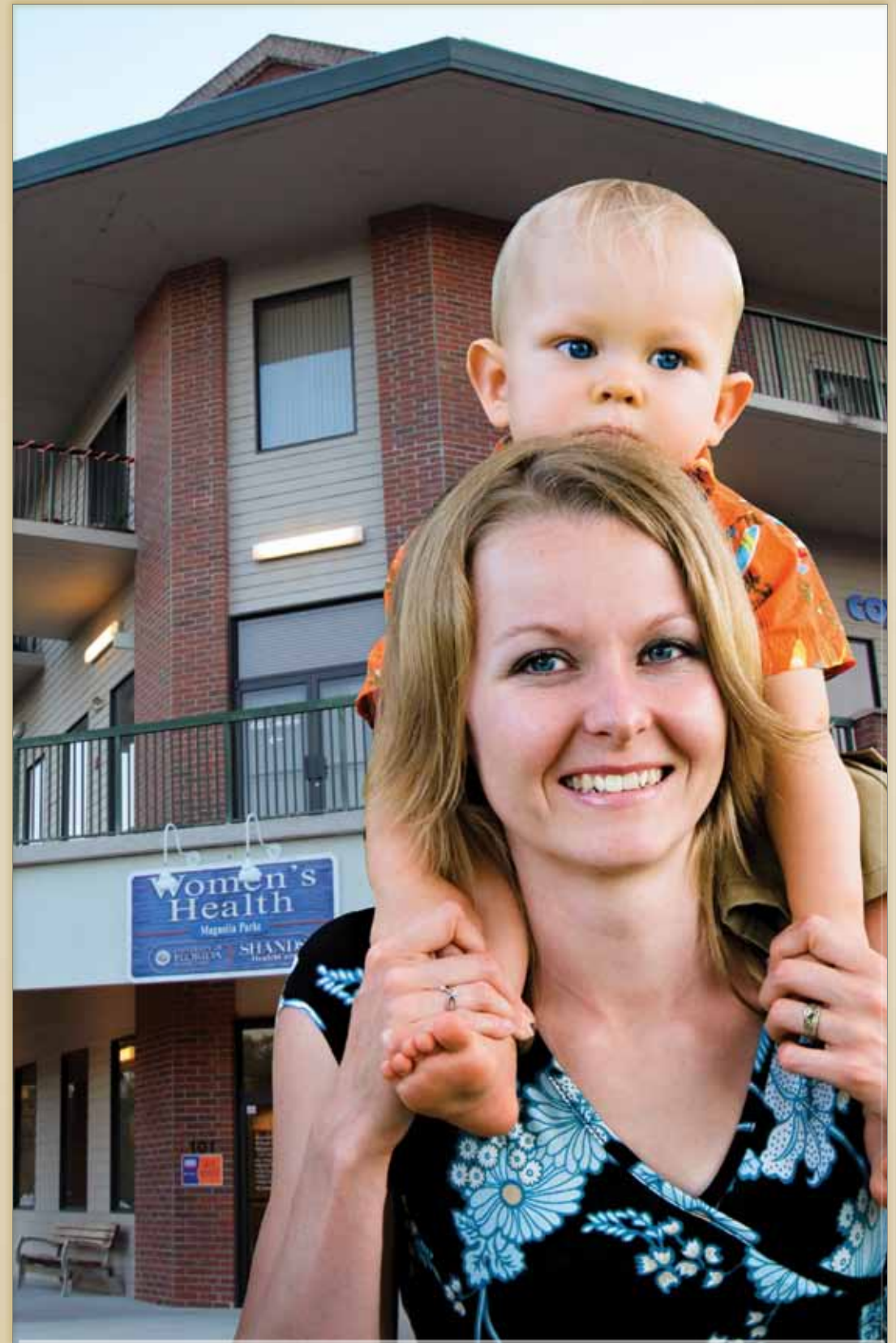
Ovulation induction, also called superovulation, may be used for women with chronic anovulation, or it can be used to enhance pregnancy rates in women with various other infertility factors.

## *Egg Donation*

Egg donation offers women with a variety of infertility conditions a realistic chance of pregnancy. The procedure uses IVF with eggs retrieved from healthy donors and sperm from the recipient's partner. The resulting embryos are then transferred to the recipient's uterus. Anonymous donors are selected from young women with an approved personal and family history who are carefully screened by both the FDA and our own program.

## *Fertility Preservation*

UF Reproductive Medicine physicians also evaluate and treat female and male cancer patients for fertility issues and fertility preservation. Infertility may be caused directly by a cancer of the reproductive system or indirectly by the treatment of cancer elsewhere in the body. We offer several clinical and research options for men and women with cancer who face potential loss of fertility from chemotherapy and radiation therapy, including treatments available only through clinical trials.



## Non-Fertility-Related Care

The majority of patients we treat come to us for fertility-related problems. However, our practice also treats a full range of hormonal problems, including those relating to menstrual cycle abnormalities, chronic pelvic pain, endometriosis, bone loss, menopause, abnormal hair growth and others. In addition, members of our team are experts in minimally invasive surgery for treating both infertility and hormonal conditions.

## Your Next Step

The office of UF Reproductive Medicine is conveniently located at Women's Health at Magnolia Parke in Gainesville. To learn more about our program, visit us online at <http://repro.med.ufl.edu> for all the details about our doctors and services, as well as links to resources about infertility. You can also call us at 352-265-6200 to talk with a representative or make an appointment with one of our board-certified physicians.

## Shands HealthCare: Here For You

Shands HealthCare, affiliated with the University of Florida, is a private, not-for-profit healthcare system among the most respected in the Southeast. The seven hospital system includes the academic medical center Shands at UF, a physical rehabilitation hospital, a behavioral-health hospital and two home-health agencies.

## University of Florida Reproductive Medicine

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